

Celebrating the Life of

Eleanor “Ellie” Elaine Bates was born on October 2, 1933, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the daughter of Frank and Lydia (Efram) Johnson. She grew up in Minneapolis and graduated from Minneapolis North High School in 1950. Ellie attended Macalester College and later earned her nursing degree at Northwestern Hospital. She began working as a Registered Nurse at Northwestern Hospital and at North Memorial Hospital in the OR. In 1953, Ellie was united in marriage to Joseph Stephens and they later divorced. In November of 1965, Ellie moved to Willmar and began working at Rice Memorial Hospital. In 1972, she was married to Robert “Bob” Bates and they made their home in Willmar. Ellie loved being a nurse and helping others. She also taught students in the nursing program at the Willmar Community College. Following her retirement in 1998, she kept busy with volunteer work at her church and the Willmar schools and later became a foster grandparent. Ellie was a member of the Church of St. Mary. She had a strong and solid faith and was active with the Daughters of Isabella. She enjoyed dancing, reading, knitting blankets, crossword puzzles, watching birds and sporting events.

She is survived by her four children, Roger (and Lisa) Stephens of Willmar, Lori (and John) Wolfram of St. Cloud, Paul (and Kelly) Bates of St. Cloud and Jill (and Todd) Holland of Annandale and seven grandchildren, Matt (and Rhea) Stephens, AJ (and Sierra) Stephens, Jason (and Tiffany) Stephens, Mariah (and Jesse) Stark, Tyler (and Nick) Bates, Riley Bates (and Claire Athmann) and Myles Bates (and Vanessa Ruiz-Joya), besides other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bob in 1993; and one brother, Walter Johnson.



Ellie Bates

1933 - 2023

Twenty-Third Psalm

*The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want...
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters...*

*He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for His name's sake...*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff,
they comfort me. Thou preparest a table
before me in the presence of mine
enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over...*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell in
the house of the Lord forever.*

Prayer (D of I)

*O God, who enlightens the minds and inflames the hearts
of the faithful by the Holy Spirit, grant that through the same Spirit,
I may know my true vocation in life and have the grace to follow it faithfully.
I make this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

In Loving Memory Of

Ellie Bates

October 2, 1933
Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 16, 2023
Willmar, Minnesota

Mass of Christian Burial

Friday, June 23, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.
Church of St. Mary
Willmar, Minnesota

Celebrant

Fr. Steve Verhelst

Music

Pianist & Vocalist: Tim Cayler

Gathering Song: *"Here I Am Lord"*

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 62 – *"Rest In God Alone"*

Preparation of the Gifts: *"Prayer of St. Francis"*

Communion: *"On Eagles Wings"*

Song of Farewell: *"Old Hundreth"*

Going Forth: *"Lead Me, Lord"*

Interment

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
Willmar, Minnesota